

# House Armed Services Committee

DEMOCRATS

Ike Skelton, Ranking Member

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## Skelton Pleased to See Original Bill Pass

*WASHINGTON D.C.— Today, after much delay, the House finally passed the FY06 Defense Authorization bill. Rep. Ike Skelton (MO), Ranking Member on the House Armed Services Committee made the following statement.*

“For the past two days, the future of the Defense Authorization bill has been held hostage for an unrelated and controversial piece of legislation that had no connection to defense. My colleagues and I expressed our deep concern with this, and I am truly pleased to see this bill in its original form come before the House tonight.

“In a time of war, it is essential that we provide our men and women in uniform with the resources and equipment they need to succeed, and I am pleased that the leadership of this House finally relented and allowed us to do that. Legislation for our men and women in uniform should never be put in jeopardy for political reasons.

“This legislation provides for the initiation and continuation of many important policies that will benefit our servicemen and women, as well as their families upon its final passage. This is a wonderful way to honor them during the holiday season for all they have done throughout the year.

“I’m am extremely pleased with this bill, and commend all of my colleagues who have worked so hard for its passage.”

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